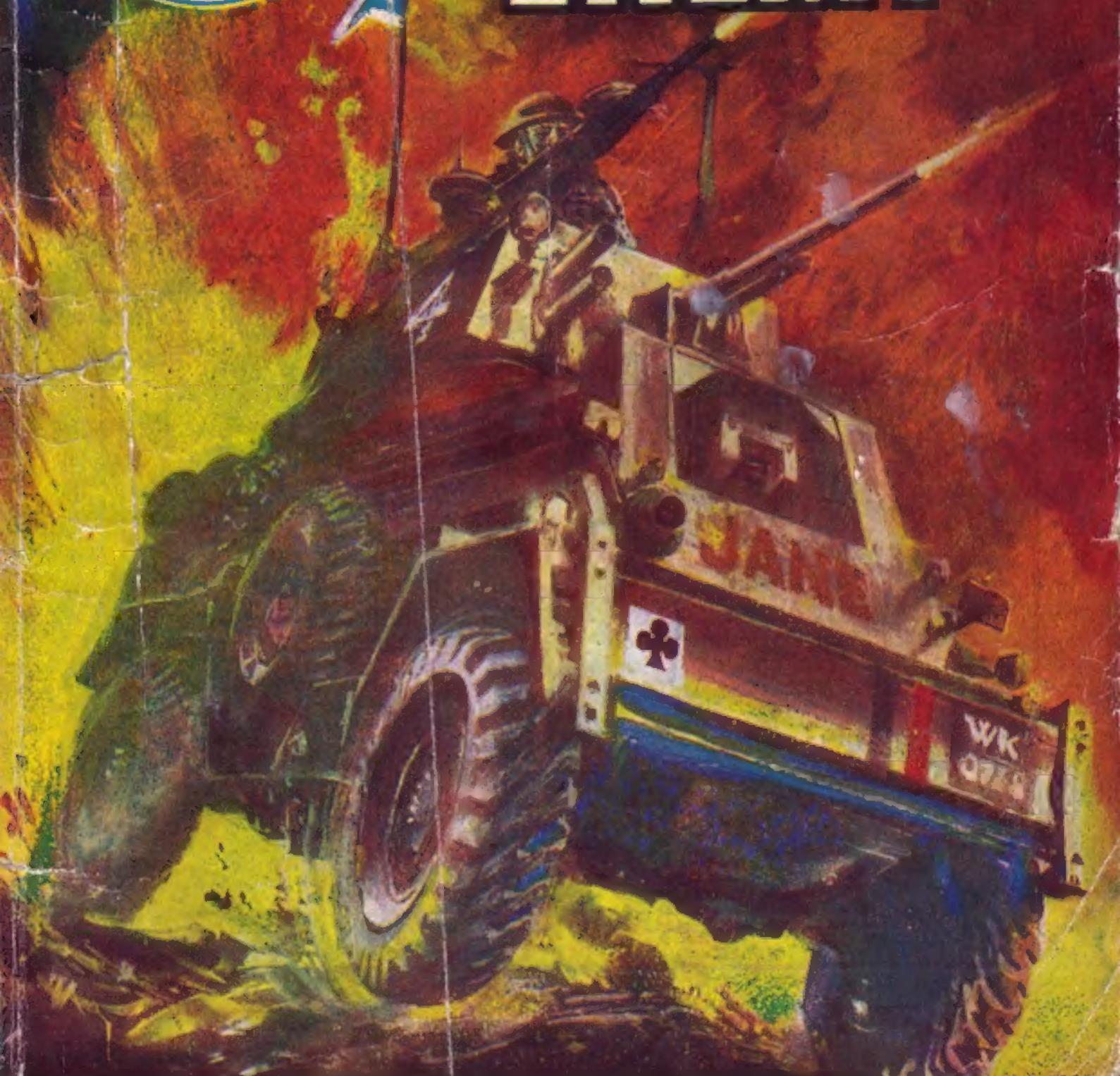


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# THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

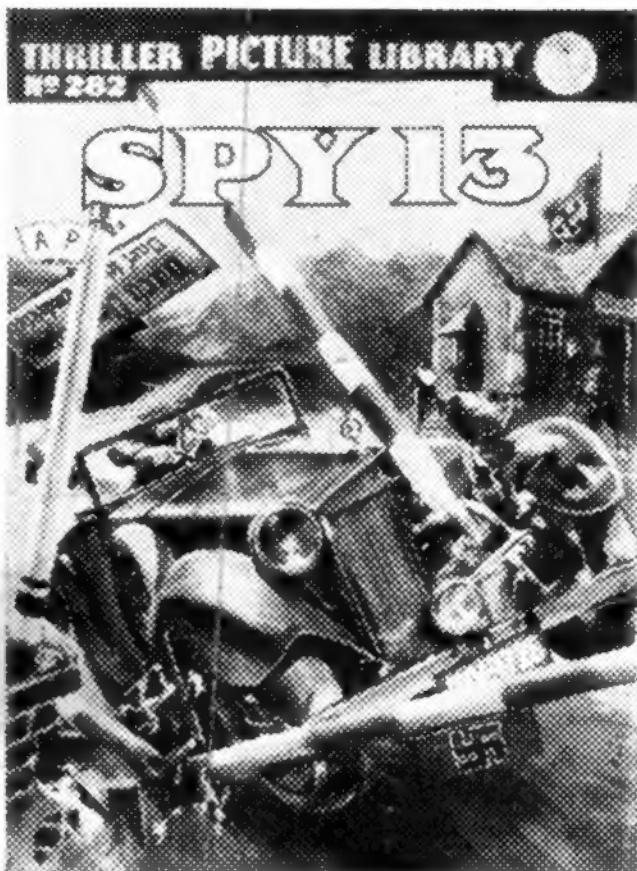


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# *The INVISIBLE ENEMY*

D-DAY, JUNE 6TH, 1944. BY AN INCREDIBLE FEAT OF PLANNING, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE MOST CAREFUL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ENEMY'S DEFENCES, THE ALLIES WERE ABLE TO LAND A VAST ARMY ON THE ENEMY OCCUPIED COAST OF EUROPE, AND ACHIEVE AN ALMOST COMPLETE TACTICAL SURPRISE.



## Chapter 1

## D-DAY PLUS

IN NEARLY FIVE YEARS OF WAR, RECONNAISSANCE HAD BECOME A HIGHLY SPECIALISED ART, ENTRUSTED TO A PICKED BAND OF TRAINED MEN, THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS.

THERE'S A STRONGPOINT SOMEWHERE OVER THE RIDGE, LIEUTENANT. IT'S GIVING US A BIT OF TROUBLE. WILL YOU SEE IF YOU CAN PINPOINT IT FOR US?

I'LL SEND OUT A COUPLE OF SCOUT CARS, SIR.



IT WAS THE MOMENT WHEN MONTHS OF TRAINING BECAME STARK REALITY FOR THE MEN OF TROOP 'C'.

WATCH OUT AS YOU REACH THE CREST OF THE RIDGE, SERGEANT ROBERTS. THERE'S SOME HEAVY STUFF UP THERE. KEEP IN WIRELESS CONTACT.

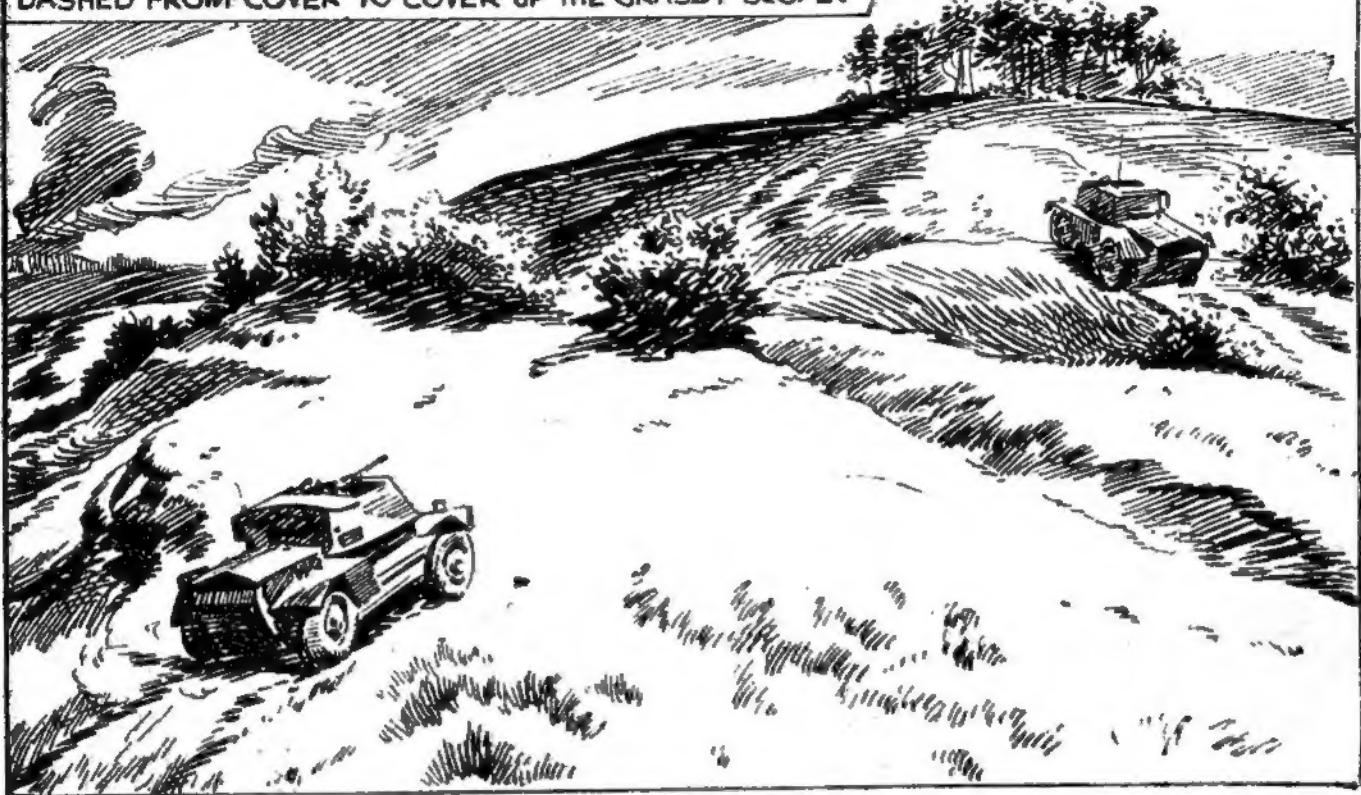
RIGHT, SIR.



## The Invisible Enemy

3

FAST, HIGHLY MANOEUVRABLE, CAPABLE OF GREAT SPEED EITHER FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS... THE SCOUT CARS DASHED FROM COVER TO COVER UP THE GRASSY SLOPE.



AS TROOPER 'BLANCO' WHITE, SERGEANT ROBERTS' DRIVER, STEERED THE SPEEDING DINGO SCOUT CAR TOWARDS THE WOODS, THEY CAME UNDER FIRE FROM A SAND-BAGGED MACHINE-GUN NEST.

KEEP GOING,  
BLANCO...KEEP  
GOING!



4 The Invisible Enemy

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THEY HIT  
A DIRT PATH THROUGH THE TREES..  
AND SWUNG ON TO IT... **AND THEN...**

SHARE THIS  
AMONGST YOU,  
SQUAREHEADS!



IN ONE SEARING EXPLOSION, THE ENEMY  
POSITION WAS WIPE OUT...



TWO HUNDRED YARDS FARTHER ON, SERGEANT ROBERTS DISMOUNTED AND CREEPT FORWARD TO A POSITION FROM WHICH HE COULD LOOK OVER THE BROW OF THE HILL.



THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION WAS THE PRIDE OF THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS AND SOON, IN RESPONSE TO JOHNNY'S MESSAGE, A BARRAGE OF SHELLS WAS SENT WHISTLING TOWARDS THE ENEMY BATTERY.



## The Invisible Enemy

AND AS THE GERMAN GUNS FELL SILENT, ALLIED INFANTRY BEGAN TO ADVANCE ONCE MORE.

AND THAT'S ANOTHER JERRY-MACHINE GUN OPENING UP FROM ALONG THE RIDGE...WE'D BETTER TAKE A HAND.

HERE COME THE POOR PERISHIN' FOOT-SLOGGERS!



JACKS OF ALL TRADES, THE RECCE MEN GAVE FIERCELY ACCURATE COVERING FIRE TO THE BRITISH TROOPS.

NICE WORK, SARGE...THAT'S KEPT THE JERRY'S NUTS DOWN!



## The Invisible Enemy

7

WHILE THE ADVANCE WAS BEING CONSOLIDATED, THE TWO SCOUT CARS REJOINED THE REMAINDER OF TROOP 'C' IN 'HARBOUR'.



WITH A SKILL BORN OF LONG PRACTICE, BLANCO WHITE PRODUCED MUGS OF HOT, STRONG, SWEET TEA IN NEXT TO NO TIME.

HEY, LOOK, SARGE! HERE COMES THAT FLIPPING YANK ARMOURED MOB WE MET UP WITH IN BLIGHTY. I'D KNOW THEIR SIGN ANYWHERE.



POWERFUL ENGINES THROBBING, THE AMERICAN HALF TRACK SCOUT CARS MOVED SLOWLY ALONG THE NARROW LANE. THEN FROM ONE CAME A LOUD YELL.



## The Invisible Enemy



## The Invisible Enemy

9

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OCCASIONAL CLASHES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AND BRITISH SOLDIERS, IN THE GREAT BATTLE AHEAD THEY WERE UNITED AGAINST THEIR COMMON, SAVAGE FOE.



THE VITAL STRONGPOINT OF CAEN WAS CAPTURED A MONTH AFTER D-DAY...

BY THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST A DANGEROUS GERMAN SALIENT STRETCHING FROM FALAISE TO MORTAIN WAS CUT OFF BY BRITISH, CANADIAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS.



EIGHT GERMAN DIVISIONS WERE ANNIHILATED.

## The Invisible Enemy

PARIS WAS ENTERED ON AUGUST 25TH. BY GENERAL DE GAULLE AND HIS FREE FRENCH FORCES.

THE GUARDS ARMOURED DIVISION LIBERATED BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 3RD.

HITLER'S IMPREGNABLE SEIGFRIED LINE WAS BREACHED NORTH OF AACHEN BY THE FIRST U.S. ARMY IN OCTOBER.



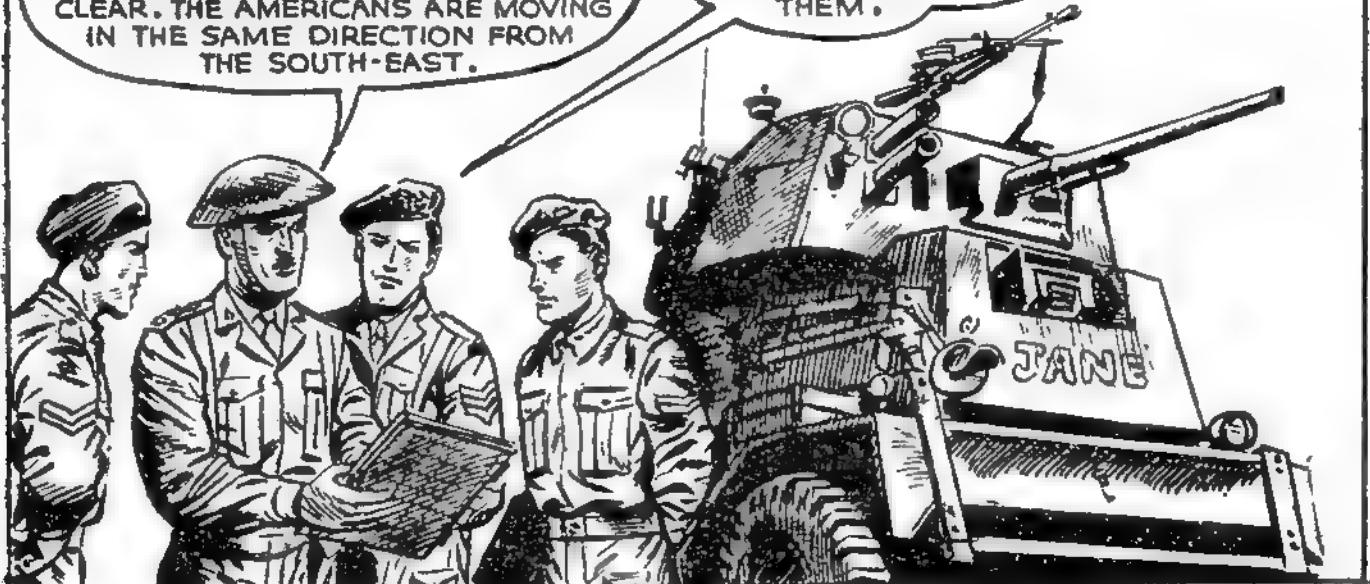
Chapter 2.

**LIMEY VERSUS YANK**

THE RACE TO REACH THE RHINE WAS ON AND THE RECCE CORPS WERE, AS USUAL, TO THE FORE.

YOU ARE TO PROBE ALONG THE ROADS TO DUSSEN ON OUR RIGHT FLANK, SERGEANT ROBERTS, AND SEE IF IT IS CLEAR. THE AMERICANS ARE MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

I SEE, SIR... PERHAPS WE CAN GET THERE IN TIME TO WELCOME THEM.



JOHNNY ROBERTS GAVE HIS ORDERS TO THE CORPORALS IN CHARGE OF THE BREN GUN CARRIERS WHICH WERE TO ACCOMPANY HIM AND THEN CLIMBED ABOARD THE HUMBER ARMOURED CAR.

DID CAPTAIN LLOYD SAY AMERICANS, SARGE? LUMME, WE CAN'T LET THOSE BIG-MOUTHS GET THERE BEFORE US!



THE HEAVY ARMOURED CAR AND THE CARRIERS MOVED CAUTIOUSLY ALONG THE DUSSEN ROAD WHICH WOUND THROUGH PINE-CLAD HILLS.

TAKE HER SLOWLY TO THE BROW OF THE HILL, DRIVER... AND I'LL HAVE A DEKKO OVER THE TOP.



## The Invisible Enemy

IN A RECCE MAN CAUTION WAS THE SIGN OF EFFICIENCY, NOT OF TIMIDITY.

THAT'S DUSSEN OVER YONDER AND THE ONLY LIVING THING IN SIGHT IS A CIVVY, COMING THIS WAY. PERHAPS HE CAN TELL US IF THE JERRIES ARE STILL THERE.



PUFFING AND PANTING FROM HIS CLIMB, THE ELDERLY, HALF-STARVED BELGIAN STUMBLED TO A SHAKY HALT AS HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE ARMOURED CAR.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, GRANDAD... WE'RE BRITISH! NOUS SOMMES AMIS, COMPRENEZ?

OUI, OUI, M'SIEUR! WELCOME... W-WELCOME!



ONCE REASSURED, THE OLD MAN WAS EAGER TO HELP THE BRITISH LIBERATORS.

THE BOCHES, M'SIEUR? THEY ARE ALL GONE EXCEPT FOR SOME WHO ARE GUARDING THE LOWER ROAD. IT IS RUMOURED THAT THE AMERICANS WILL COME THAT WAY.

THE LOWER ROAD, EH? THANK YOU, M'SIEUR!



## The Invisible Enemy

13

THIS WAS A MOMENT OF DECISION FOR THE YOUNG SERGEANT. SHOULD HE CARRY ON TO DUSSEN OR TURN ASIDE TO AID THEIR AMERICAN ALLIES? BLANCO WHITE WAS IN NO DOUBT AS TO HIS OPINION.

LET'S GET ON TO THE VILLAGE, SARGE. THE YANKS CAN LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BLANCO. THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO...



A REFERENCE TO THE MAP SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A FARM TRACK JOINING THEIR ROUTE WITH THE LOWER ROAD TO THEIR RIGHT. IN A FEW MINUTES THEY WERE BUMPING OVER THE ROUGH PATH.



## The Invisible Enemy

THEY WERE NOW TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE LOWER ROAD...AND THE GERMAN TROOPS COVERING THE AMERICANS' ROUTE.

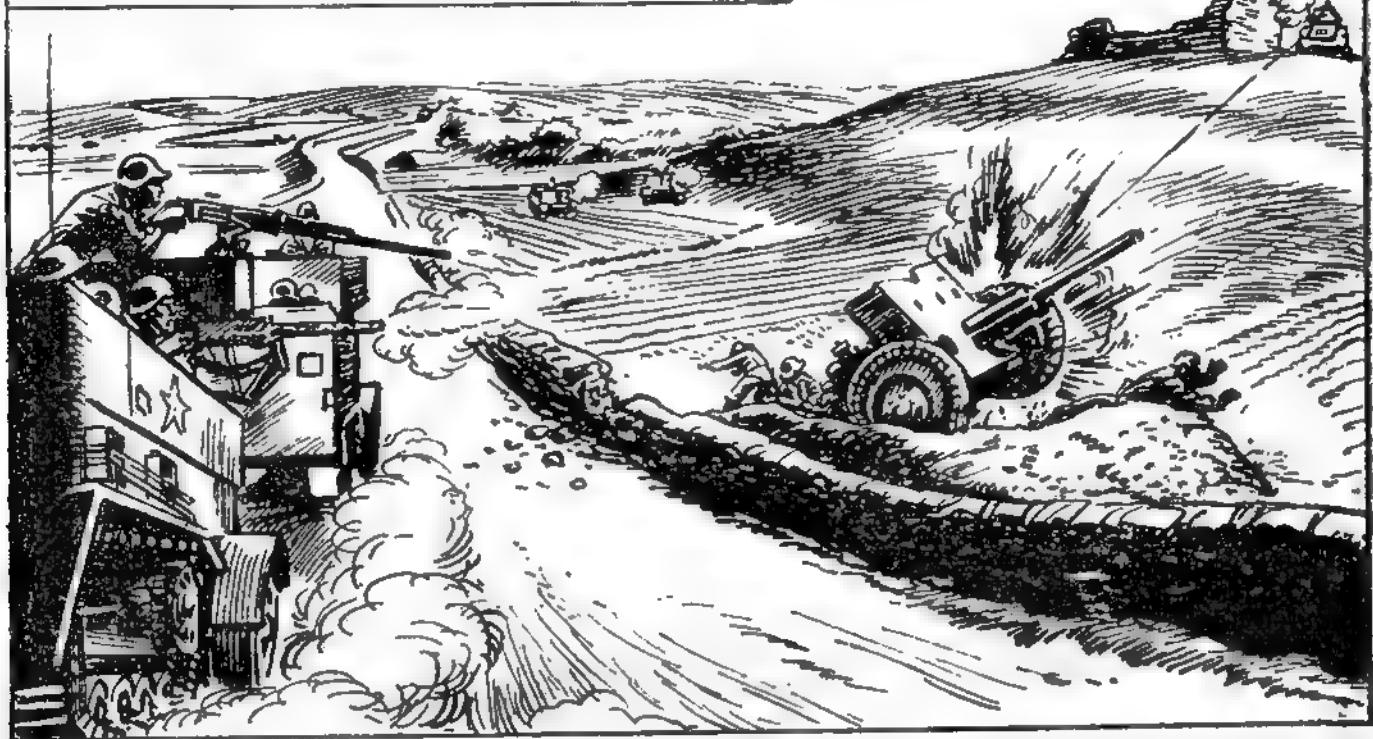
A NICE LITTLE AMBUSH...IT WOULD CLOBBER THOSE YANKS GOOD AND PROPER! WHILE I ENGAGE THAT GUN, YOU TAKE THE CARRIERS ROUND TO THEIR REAR, BLOKES!

BOY, THERE'S A NASTY SHOCK COMING TO THOSE JERRIES!

THE GERMANS WERE PEERING TENSELY THROUGH THEIR SIGHTS AT THE AMERICAN SCOUT CARS WHEN JOHNNY'S FIRST ROUNDS HIT THEM.

HIMMEL!  
WE ARE TRAPPED!

DESPERATELY THEY TRIED TO SWING THE ANTI-TANK GUN ROUND... BUT THEY WERE TOO SLOW!



THE AMBUSHERS HAD BEEN AMBUSHED! THEN JOHNNY ROBERTS AND HIS CREW STARED IN AMAZEMENT AS THE AMERICAN CARS ROARED ON DOWN THE ROAD WITHOUT EVEN SLOWING.



## The Invisible Enemy

THE HUMBER 'HEAVY' TRUNDLED TO A HALT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE VILLAGE SQUARE FROM THE AMERICANS.



THIS WAS THE LAST STRAW TO BLANCO WHITE AND BEFORE JOHNNY COULD RESTRAIN HIM, HE HURLED HIMSELF ACROSS THE COBBLES AT THE GRINNING AMERICAN.





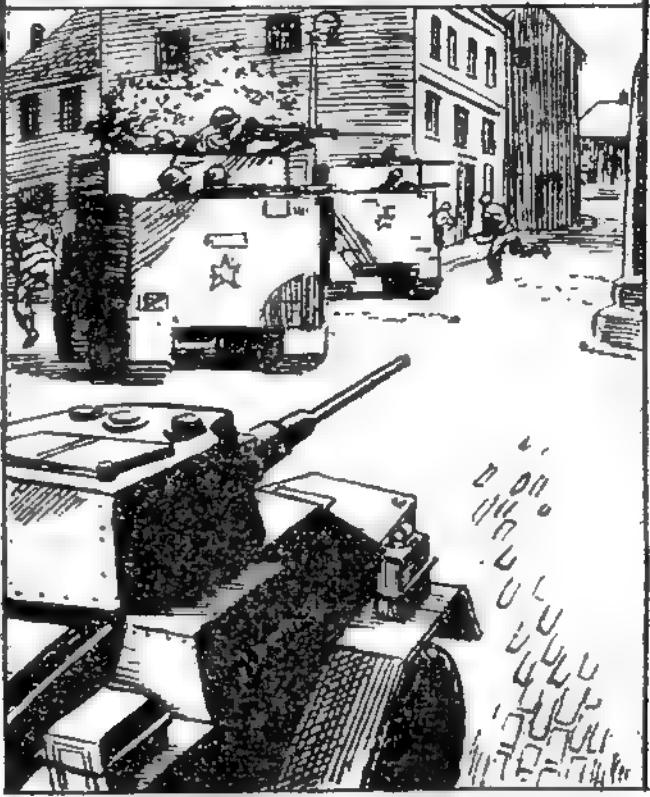
## The Invisible Enemy

THE VILLAGE SQUARE CLEARED AS IF BY MAGIC.

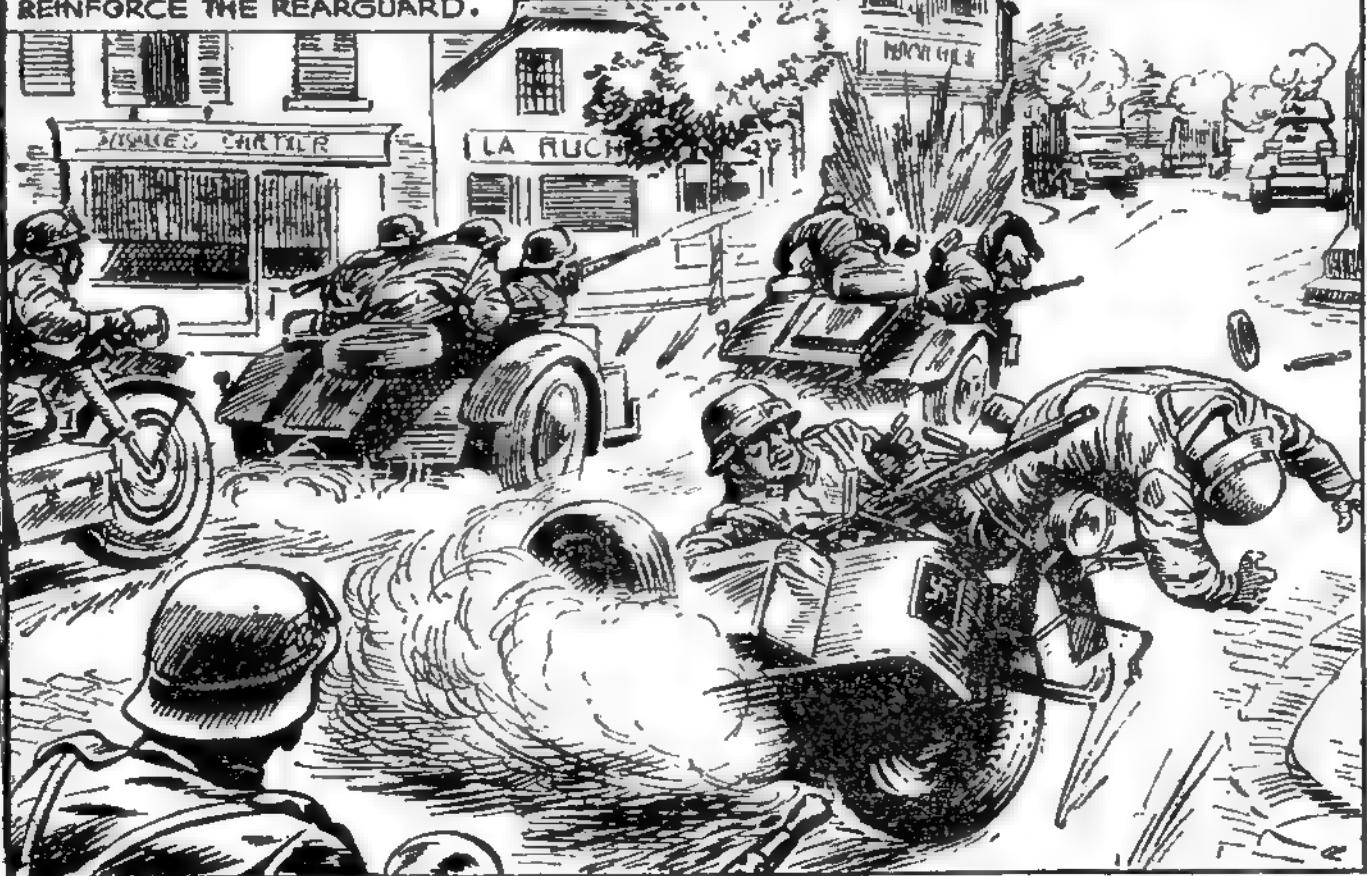
TAKE THE CARRIERS DOWN THE SIDE ROAD AND WORK YOUR WAY ROUND BEHIND THE JERRIES.



AND AS THE BREN CARRIERS CLATTERED OFF BEHIND THE HOUSES, A DEATHLY HUSH DESCENDED UPON THE SQUARE.



THE SOUND OF ENGINES DREW NEAR AND SERGEANT ROBERTS BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF... THEY WERE NOT THE ENGINES OF TANKS. INTO THE OPEN SPACE ROARED A COLUMN OF UNSUSPECTING GERMAN MOTOR CYCLISTS, NO DOUBT ON THEIR WAY TO REINFORCE THE REARGUARD.



## The Invisible Enemy

19

THE FIRST FEW MACHINES CRASHED, THEIR CREWS KILLED OR WOUNDED, AND THE REAR END OF THE COLUMN FRANTICALLY SWUNG ROUND... BUT THE BREN CARRIERS BLOCKED THEIR RETREAT.



## The Invisible Enemy

THE ENEMY MOTORISED COLUMN WAS DESTROYED... SUDDENLY AND UTTERLY... WITHOUT A SINGLE CASUALTY TO THE BRITISH OR AMERICANS.

PERHAPS YOU TWO HOT-HEADS WILL LEARN FROM THAT LITTLE INCIDENT THAT IT'S BETTER TO FIGHT BESIDE EACH OTHER THAN AGAINST EACH OTHER. WE WERE NEARLY CAUGHT NAPPING BECAUSE OF YOU.

YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, SERGEANT... SHAKE ON IT, YOU TWO GUYS!



SHEEPISHLY, THE TWO TOUGH-LOOKING SOLDIERS GRIPPED HANDS.

PITY, I WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY THAT SCRAP.

ME TOO, BUDDY! THAT'S A DANDY LEF-HOOK YOU'VE GOT!



## Chapter 3. HITLER'S FANTASTIC PLAN

THE ALLIES WERE POISED FOR THEIR DRIVE INTO THE HEART OF GERMANY... AND THIS WAS THE MOMENT ADOLF HITLER CHOSE FOR HIS SUPREME GAMBLE.



OTTO SKORZENY, YOUNG GERMAN S.S. OFFICER, ALREADY FAMED FOR HIS INCREDIBLE KIDNAPPING OF MUSSOLINI OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE ALLIES, WAS LED BY HIS FUHRER OVER TO THE HUGE WALL MAP OF THE EUROPEAN FRONT.



## The Invisible Enemy

HIS FINGER QUIVERING WITH BARELY SUPPRESSED EXCITEMENT, GERMANY'S EVIL GENIUS POINTED TO THE ARDENNES SECTOR OF THE FRONT.

THE BRITISH DRIVE TO THE NORTH, THE AMERICANS TO THE SOUTH... AND IN THE MIDDLE THERE IS A WEAKLY-HELD GAP. **THERE I SHALL STRIKE!**



HITLER'S VOICE TOOK ON A FANATICAL NOTE.



SKORZENY WAS STAGGERED BY THE ENORMITY OF HITLER'S FANTASTIC PLAN. WHAT WAS HIS OWN PLACE IN THIS VAST COUNTER-STROKE? HE WAS SOON TO KNOW...





AND BEFORE THE GERMAN S.S. OFFICER COULD QUESTION THIS ASTOUNDING STATEMENT, ADOLF HITLER RAPIDLY EXPLAINED.

YOU WILL RAISE A BRIGADE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING GERMANS. THEY WILL WEAR AMERICAN UNIFORMS, CARRY AMERICAN WEAPONS, TRAVEL IN AMERICAN VEHICLES. UNQUESTIONED, UNSUSPECTED, THEY WILL DRIVE BOLDLY THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES.



WHEN OTTO SKORZENY LEFT AFTER THAT INTERVIEW WITH HIS LEADER, HIS BRAIN WHIRLED WITH THE STRANGE ASSIGNMENT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN. IT WAS OCTOBER 20TH. AND HE HAD SIX IMPOSSIBLY-SHORT WEEKS IN WHICH TO PREPARE HIS 'INVISIBLE ARMY'. SOON THE ORDER WENT OUT...

VERY SECRET: TO DIVISIONAL AND ARMY COMMAND ONLY.

OFFICERS AND MEN WHO SPEAK ENGLISH ARE WANTED FOR A SPECIAL MISSION. VOLUNTEERS SELECTED WILL JOIN A NEW UNIT UNDER THE COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SKORZENY, TO WHOSE HEADQUARTERS AT FRIEDENTHAL, APPLICATION SHOULD BE MADE.



## The Invisible Enemy

THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM ADVENTURE-LOVING YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIERS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECRET OFFENSIVE WENT ON APACE BEHIND THE GERMAN FRONT LINE. MEANWHILE, MANY OF THE ALLIED TROOPS WERE MOVING OUT OF THE LINE, HAVING BEEN IN ACTION SINCE D-DAY.

OUR DIVISION IS BEING RELIEVED, MEN. WE ARE GOING TO A REST AREA WITH THEM. TROOP SERGEANTS, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR VEHICLES ARE READY TO MOVE BY EIGHT HUNDRED HOURS TOMORROW.



LIGHT-HEARTEDLY, THE RECCE MEN BROKE AWAY TO THEIR ARMOURED VEHICLES...

WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF SOME LEAVE IN BRUSSELS, SARGE? THEY SAY YOU CAN HAVE A SMASHING TIME THERE.

NOT A HOPE, BLANCO! IT MAY BE A REST AREA BUT THE DIV'S GOING TO BE IN RESERVE JUST IN CASE OF TROUBLE.



PROMPTLY ON TIME THE NEXT MORNING, THE CONVOY MOVED OFF... AWAY FROM THE GERMAN FRONTIER.



IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO ENTERTAIN AND REST THE MEN WHO HAD SEEN SO MUCH ACTION SINCE THAT FATEFUL JUNE DAY, SIX MONTHS BEFORE.

THERE WERE ENSA SHOWS.

FOOTBALL MATCHES...

CINEMA SHOWS BY THE ARMY FILM UNIT.

CRICKET!  
A WAR FILM!

ARMY FILM UNIT

DESERT VICTORY

## The Invisible Enemy

A BOXING MATCH WAS ARRANGED BY THE RECCE UNIT WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS WITH WHOM THEY HAD CO-OPERATED ON SEVERAL MISSIONS.

HEY, BLANCO... LOOK AT THIS! MAYBE THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO FINISH YOUR FIGHT WITH THAT CHAP, HANK. HE'S ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT.

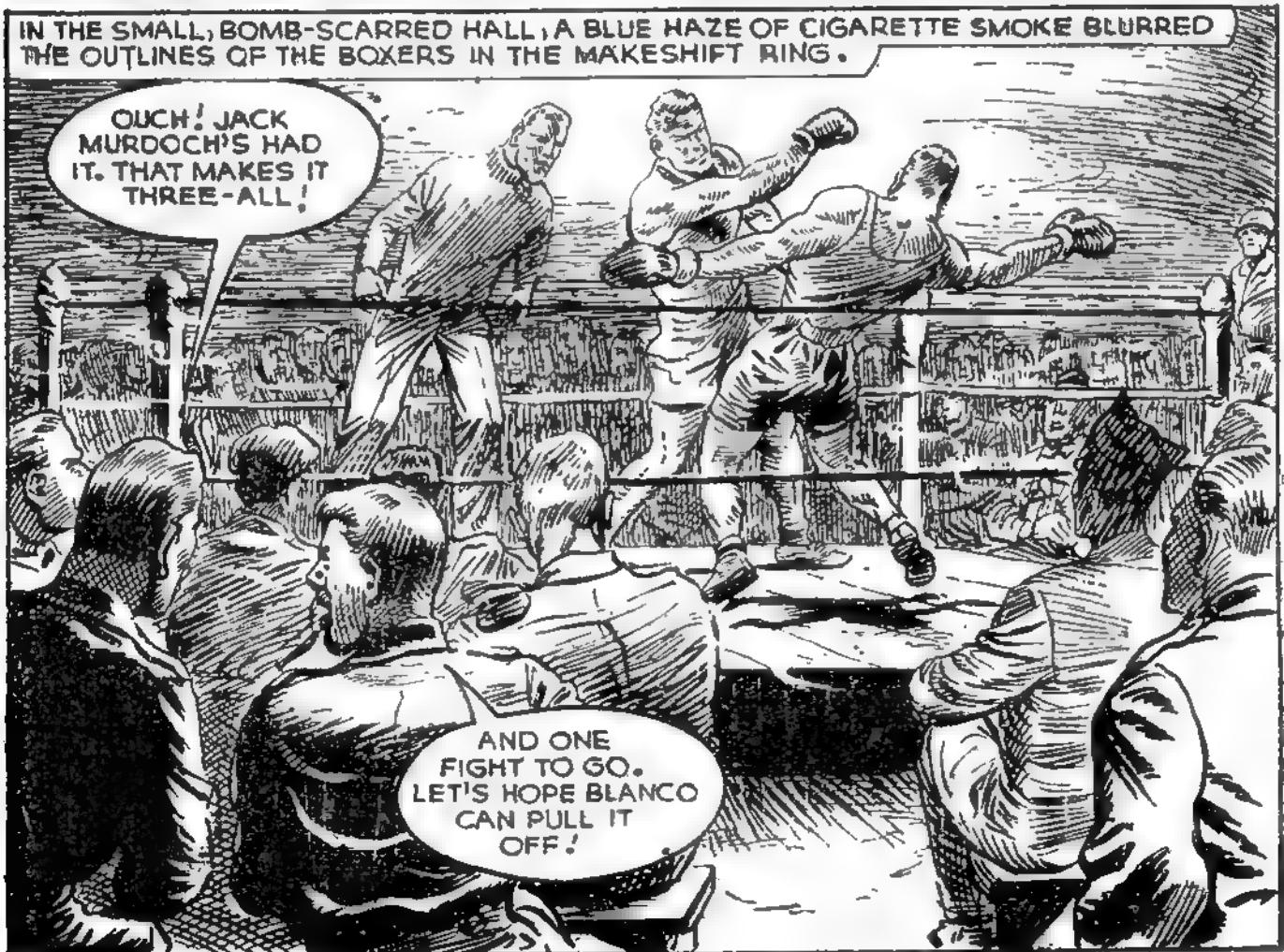
I WOULDN'T MIND STICKIN' THE OLD GLOVES ON AGAIN, SARGE. IT'D TAKE ME BACK TO THOSE SCRAPS I USED TO HAVE AT THE BLACKFRIARS RING.



IN THE SMALL, BOMB-SCARRED HALL, A BLUE HAZE OF CIGARETTE SMOKE BLURRED THE OUTLINES OF THE BOXERS IN THE MAKESHIFT RING.

OUCH! JACK MURDOCH'S HAD IT. THAT MAKES IT THREE-ALL!

AND ONE FIGHT TO GO. LET'S HOPE BLANCO CAN PULL IT OFF!



## The Invisible Enemy

27

THE BULKY FIGURE OF BLANCO WHITE, WRAPPED IN A GREATCOAT, CLIMBED THROUGH THE ROPES. JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS HIS SECOND.



THE OTHER CORNER WAS EMPTY... BUT INSTINCTIVELY, BLANCO KNEW WHO HIS OPPONENT WOULD BE. AND IT WAS!



THIS TIME  
YOU'LL BE LUCKY  
IF YOU TOUCH  
ME, BUDDY!

BOTH MEN WERE BIG, THEY WERE FIT, AND THEY HAD BOXED BEFORE... IT WAS A FIGHT WORTH WATCHING. ROUND ONE... THE AMERICAN WAS ON TOP...



## The Invisible Enemy

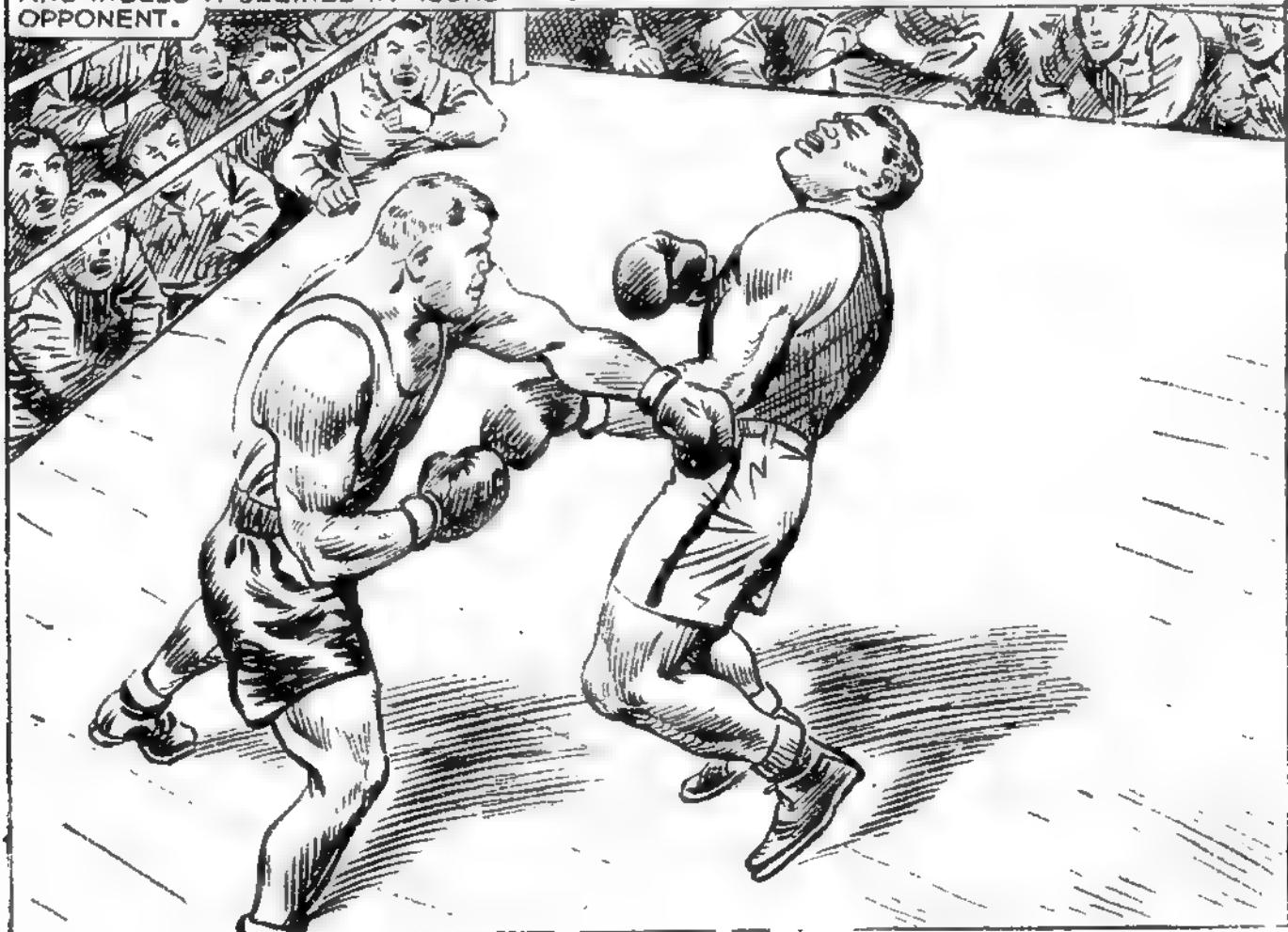
THE BELL WENT AND JOHNNY GAVE HIS MAN ADVICE...  
IT SEEMED, BADLY NEEDED ADVICE.

WATCH OUT  
FOR THAT RIGHT  
OF HIS, BLANCO...  
OR YOU'LL BE DOWN  
FOR KEEPS.

DON'T WORRY  
YOURSELF, SARGE,  
I'VE GOT THE  
MEASURE OF HIM  
NOW... YOU'LL  
SEE!



AND INDEED IT SEEMED IN ROUND TWO THAT THE BRITISH BOXER HAD SIZED UP HIS OPPONENT.



## The Invisible Enemy

29

THE BOXERS CAME OUT FOR THE LAST ROUND... THE RESULT OF WHICH WOULD DECIDE THE MATCH. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ELECTRIC. THEY TOUCHED GLOVES ... THEN...

STOP THE FIGHT!  
STOP THE FIGHT!



THE GERMANS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH IN THE ARDENNES! ALL LEAVE IS STOPPED... EVERYONE REPORT BACK TO CAMP IMMEDIATELY!



FOR A SECOND OR TWO THERE WAS A SHOCKED SILENCE... THEN A BABBLE OF EXCITEMENT BROKE OUT. THE TWO BOXERS LOOKED AT EACH OTHER REGRETFULLY.

WOULD YOU ADAM-AND-EVE IT? LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEVER FINISH THIS SCRAP.

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WIN THIS WAR FIRST, PAL.



## The Invisible Enemy

HITLER'S D-DAY HAD COME! THE GREAT OFFENSIVE OPENED...  
THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS ARTILLERY BARRAGE...



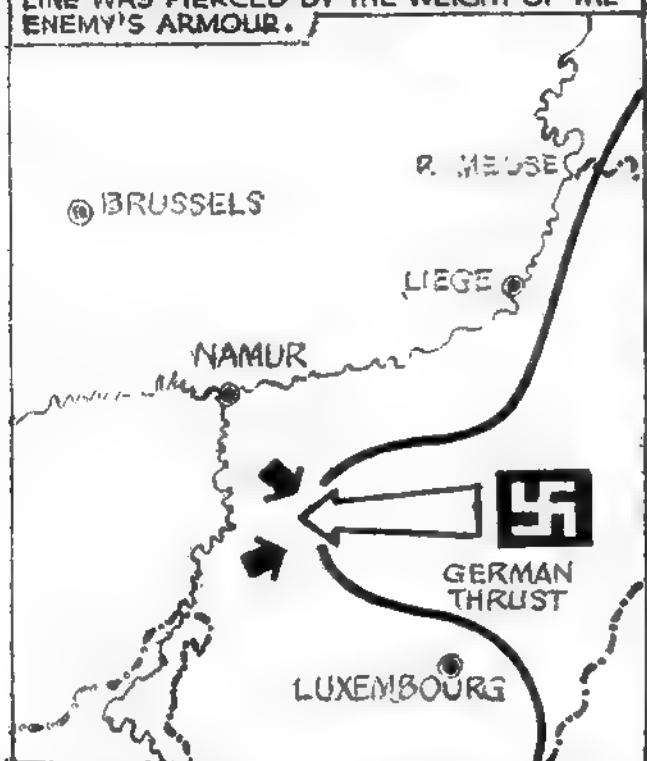
AND THEN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH PANZER ARMIES  
MOVED RELENTLESSLY FORWARD.



## The Invisible Enemy

31

THE WEAKLY HELD CENTRE OF THE ALLIED LINE WAS PIERCED BY THE WEIGHT OF THE ENEMY'S ARMOUR.



REINFORCEMENTS WERE RUSHED UP TO SLOW THE GERMAN'S ADVANCE AND SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS SOON LEADING HIS RECCE TROOP BACK TOWARDS THE NOW SNOW-COVERED BATTLEFRONT.

THE AMERICANS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN QUITE A BASHING.



NEXT MORNING THEY FOUND THEMSELVES GUARDING A MINOR CROSS-ROAD HALF A MILE BEHIND THE AMERICANS' HASTILY CONSTRUCTED DEFENCES, CLOSE TO THE RUINS OF THE VILLAGE OF VARDINAL.

TAKE THREE CARRIERS INTO EACH OF THOSE PATCHES OF TREES ... BUT I DON'T WANT A SINGLE TRACK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIDGE ... GET ME?

SURE, SARGE ... NO TRACKS, NO WARNING!



## The Invisible Enemy

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, THE HALF-FROZEN TROOPERS WERE BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER THEIR LONG VIGIL HAD BEEN UNNECESSARY.

COR! THIS IS NO WEATHER TO LEAVE A DOG OUT, LET ALONE A DELICATE CHARACTER LIKE ME!

DON'T WORRY, BLANCO... THINGS ARE LIKELY TO WARM UP. HERE COME THE JERRIES!



LIKE A PACK OF GREY RATS, THE GERMAN INFANTRY SCUTTLED DOWN THE FAR SLOPE ...



THE CROSSFIRE FROM THE BRENS CUT GREAT SWATHES  
THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE GERMANS ...



TWICE MORE, THE ENEMY TRIED TO CROSS THAT DEADLY STRETCH  
OF VALLEY... BUT EACH TIME THEY WERE BEATEN BACK.



## The Invisible Enemy

AN UNEASY SILENCE HUNG OVER THE BATTLEFIELD...AND THEN FRESH HOPE STIRRED THE RECONNAISSANCE MEN...

ANTI-TANK GUNS...  
JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!



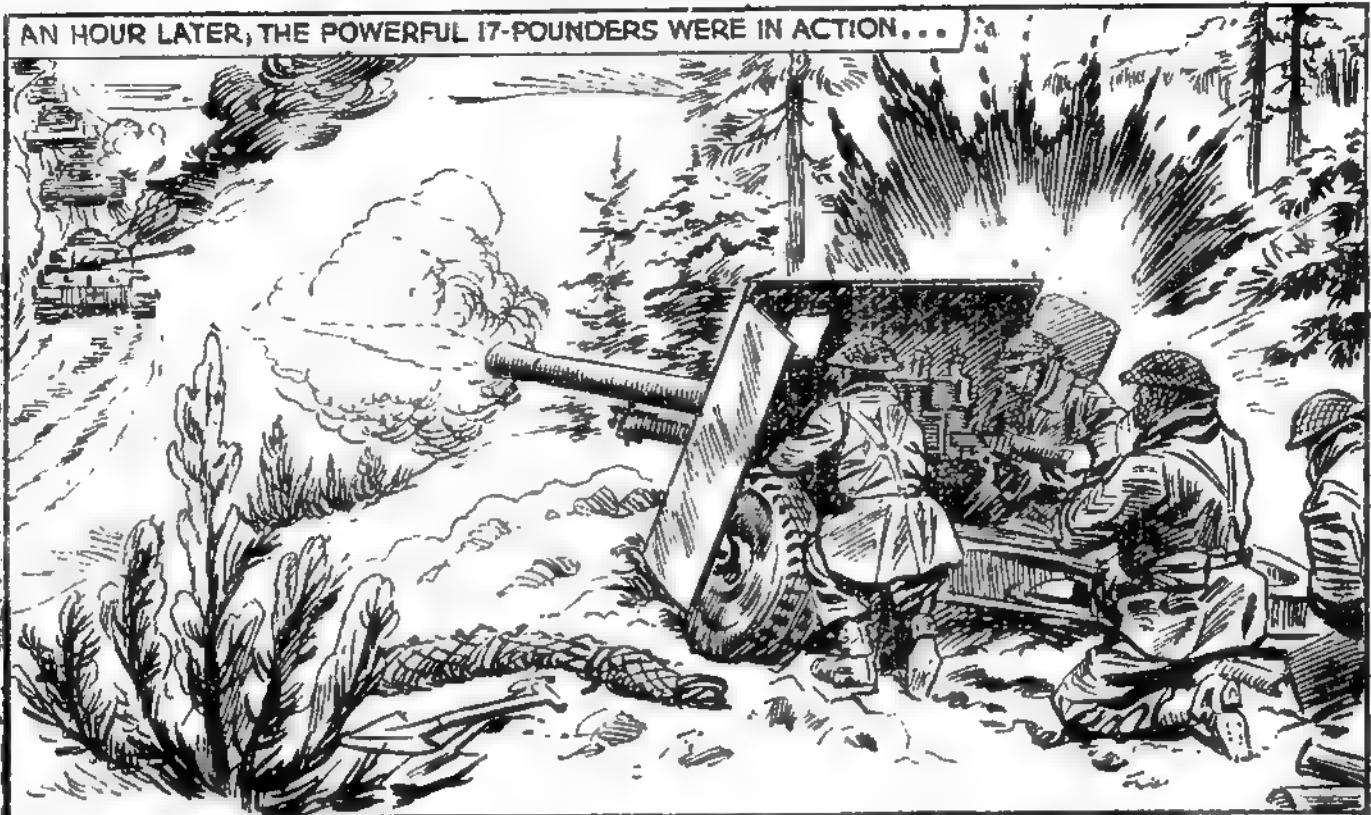
BUT ONLY THREE GUNS, COMMANDED BY LIEUTENANT MAXTON, R.A., AND A PLATOON OF INFANTRY HAD SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE FORWARD POSITION OVER THE ICY, TREACHEROUS ROADS.

I'LL MOVE MY CARRIERS TO COVER OUR FLANKS, SIR.

FAIR ENOUGH, SERGEANT. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DELAY THEIR TANKS FOR A WHILE HERE IF WE DON'T GET OUTFLANKED.



AN HOUR LATER, THE POWERFUL 17-POUNDERS WERE IN ACTION...



FOUR GIANT TIGER TANKS WERE MORTALLY HIT AND THE ROAD WAS BLOCKED. THE ENEMY BEGAN TO DEPLOY ACROSS THE SIDE OF THE HILL... AND JOHNNY KNEW THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY FOUND A WAY ROUND.



HELLO JUNO,  
RINO CALLING, TIGER  
TANKS IN STRENGTH  
ATTACKING POSITION.  
WE NEED ARMoured  
REINFORCEMENTS  
URGENTLY.  
OVER.

HELLO RINO,  
JUNO CALLING.  
U.S. TANK COLUMN  
ON WAY TO YOU.  
EXPECT IN ONE  
HOUR, OFF.

## Chapter 4. NAZI TREACHERY

THE GERMAN COUNTERSTROKE WAS GAINING VIOLENT MOMENTUM... AND THE HIGH COMMAND JUDGED THIS WAS THE MOMENT TO LAUNCH THEIR "INVISIBLE ARMY" INTO THE OFFENSIVE.

REMEMBER YOUR ORDERS. DISRUPT THE ENEMY SUPPLY LINES AND ENDEAVOUR TO REACH THE MEUSE BRIDGES... BUT ON NO ACCOUNT USE VIOLENCE WHILST IN ENEMY UNIFORMS... OR YOU WILL BE LIABLE TO BE SHOT. ALL GERMAN FORWARD TROOPS ARE TO ALLOW YOU TO PASS THROUGH THE LINES WHEN YOU LIGHT ONE OF THE GREEN FLARES YOU CARRY.



INSIDIOUSLY, YET OPENLY, THE ENEMY UNITS SLIPPED INTO THE ALLIED LINES ON THEIR EXTRAORDINARY MISSION.

THAT SIGNPOST! WE WILL TURN IT... PERHAPS WE CAN PERSUADE SOME OF OUR NEW 'COMRADES' TO DRIVE UNSUSPECTINGLY INTO OUR LINES.



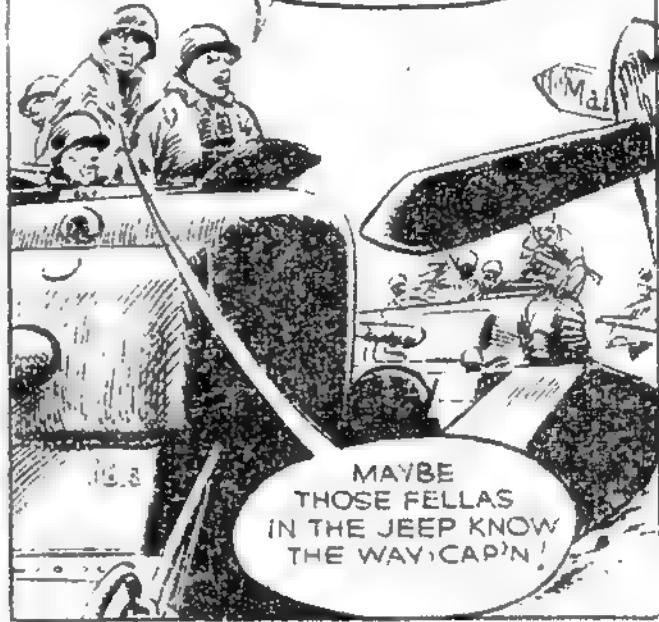
THERE WAS LITTLE TRAFFIC IN THAT FROST AND SNOW COVERED AREA AND THE GERMANS WERE ABLE TO SNAP OFF THE SIGNPOST AND PROP IT UP MISLEADINGLY IN A SNOWDRIFT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

QUICKLY, HANS! THERE ARE TANKS COMING! THEY MUST NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING.



AS THE JEEP WAS ABOUT TO MOVE OFF, A SQUADRON OF AMERICAN SHERMAN TANKS CLATTERED UP TO THE CROSSROADS.

HEY, I MUST BE NUTS! SIGNPOST SAYS: VARDINAL STRAIGHT ON... I THOUGHT WE HAD TO TURN OFF HERE.



MAYBE THOSE FELLAS IN THE JEEP KNOW THE WAY, CAP'N!

THE TANK COMMANDER HAILED THE OCCUPANTS OF THE JEEP... THE CRUCIAL TEST OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING GERMANS HAD COME.

HEY, SERGEANT... IS THIS THE ROAD TO VARDINAL?

YEAH, SURE THING, SIR... WE'VE JUST COME FROM THERE.



## The Invisible Enemy

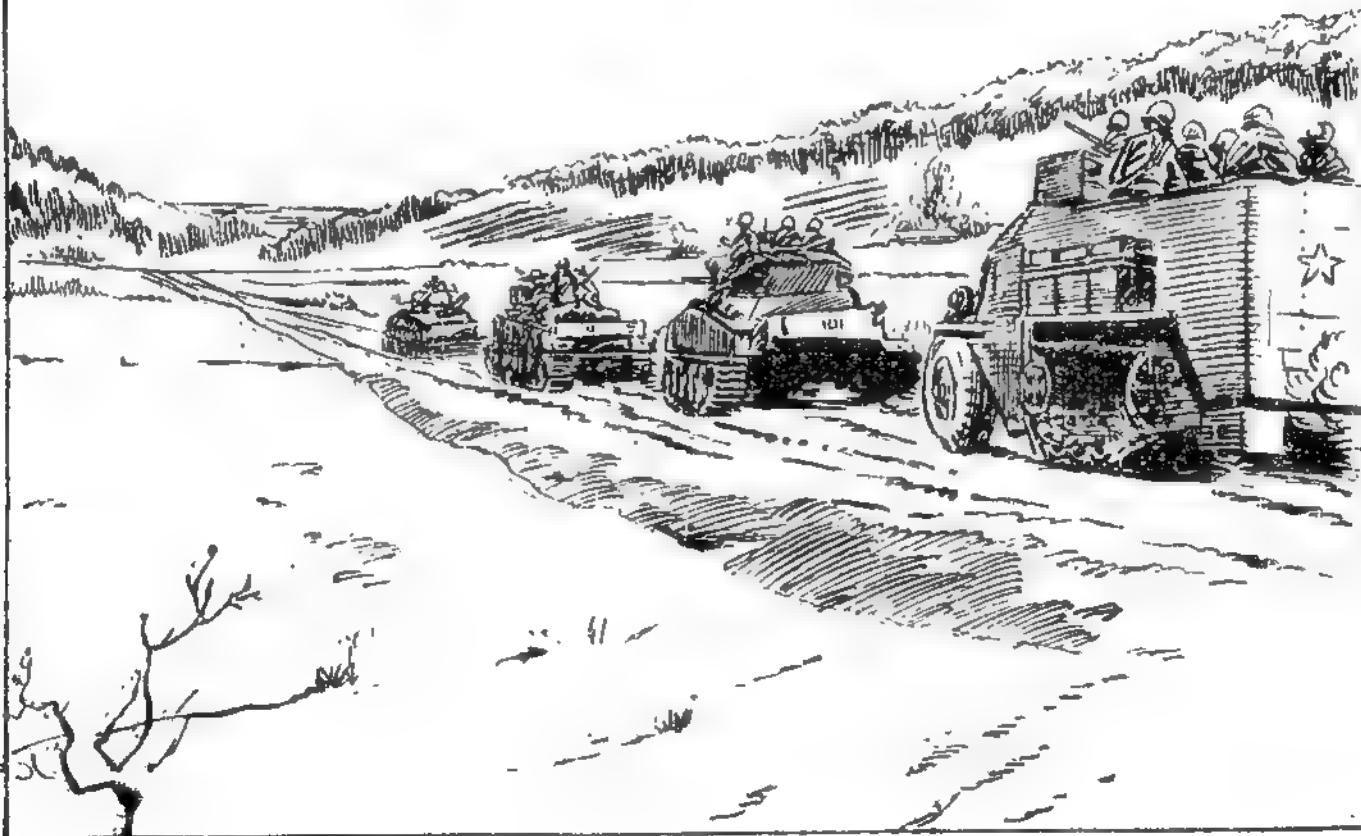
REASSURED AND UNSUSPECTING, THE COLUMN OF ARMOUR MOVED ON...

HIMMEL! THAT WAS EASY... THE POOR FOOLS ARE DRIVING STRAIGHT INTO THE MUZZLES OF OUR GUNS.

JA! NOW WE WILL PUT UP MINE WARNING NOTICES ACROSS THE ROAD AND DELAY ANY HELP REACHING THEM.



SO THE REINFORCEMENTS EXPECTED BY SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS AND HIS MEN IN THEIR OUTPOST WERE HEADING INTO A TRAP.



SUDDENLY THE SIDES OF THAT QUIET VALLEY EXPLODED INTO FIRE AND FURY...

MAKE FOR  
THOSE TREES...  
IT'S OUR ONLY  
HOPE!



THEIR GUNS HAMMERING DEFIANTLY, THE SHERMANS AND HALF TRACKS TURNED TOWARDS THE WOODED HILLSIDE.



## The Invisible Enemy



WHILE THE AMERICANS WERE ATTEMPTING THEIR VALIANT BREAKOUT, SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS AND LIEUTENANT MAXTON, R.A., WERE CONFERRING ON THEIR OWN DESPERATE SITUATION.

H.Q. REPORTS THE TANKS MUST HAVE GONE ASTRAY. SHALL I TAKE THE HUMBER, SIR, AND GO FIND THEM.

YOU'D BETTER DO THAT, SERGEANT. IF WE DON'T GET THAT ARMOUR UP HERE SOON, WE SHALL HAVE TO WITHDRAW AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TO STOP 'EM BEHIND US IN THIS SECTOR.



ITS THIRTY HORSE-POWER ENGINE ROARING, THE HUMBER ARMOURED CAR SPED BACK ALONG THE ROAD THROUGH VARDINAL, THE SMALL DESERTED BELGIAN VILLAGE A FEW MILES FROM THEIR POSITION.



## The Invisible Enemy

THEY REACHED THE CROSSROADS WHERE THE TANK COLUMN HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED AND JOHNNY ORDERED THE CAR TO BE PULLED TO A HALT.



A SWIFT CHECK OF THE TRACKS LEFT BY THE TANKS TOLD THE RECCE SERGEANT WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW.



TWO MILES AWAY, ONE AMERICAN SCOUT CAR HAD SURVIVED THE GAUNTLET OF ENEMY FIRE AND WAS RETRACING THE ROUTE WHICH HAD TAKEN THE COLUMN INTO THE TRAP.



PUZZLED BY THE ACTION OF THE MEN IN THE ROAD, THE AMERICANS HALTED THEIR ARMOURED VEHICLE BY THE SIGNBOARD.

WHAT GOES WITH YOU FELLERS?  
THIS ROAD'S AS CLEAR OF MINES AS FIFTH AVENUE.



THE DISGUISED ENEMY WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD FOR A MOMENT... EVERY NERVE TAUT WITH ALARM.

WE - WE'VE GOT OUR INSTRUCTIONS...

SARGE...  
THESE GUYS ARE THE SAME ONES AS SENT THE SQUADRON INTO THE TRAP!

WHAT?



## The Invisible Enemy

FOR A BREATHLESS SECOND, THE FIGURES WERE STILLED AS IF FROZEN INTO THAT WINTRY SCENE ... THEN STARK PANIC SEIZED THE IMPOSTORS!



THE TOMMY GUNS RATTLED VICIOUSLY AS HANK HURLED HIMSELF FORWARD AT THE GERMANS' LEADER ...

THEY'RE  
HEINIES! YOU  
DIRTY, SNEAKING  
RATS!



ONE TREACHEROUS BURST OF FIRE... AND IT WAS OVER.



THE GERMANS STEPPED FORWARD NERVOUSLY.

WE - WE SHOULD NOT HAVE D-DONE THAT, MULLER ... IF WE ARE CAUGHT WE WILL BE SHOT AS SPIES!

QUIET, DUMKOPF! IF THESE AMERICANS HAD LIVED, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND QUESTIONED. IMMEDIATELY OUR LEADER'S BRILLIANT PLAN WOULD HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED.



THE FACE OF THE GERMAN NAMED MULLER WAS HARD AND RUTHLESS.

TAKE THEIR HELMETS AND JACKETS, THEN DUMP THE BODIES IN THE JEEP. WE WILL HIDE IT AMONGST THE TREES AND TAKE OVER THE ARMoured CARRIER. IT WILL SUIT US EVEN BETTER IF WE CAN REACH THE RIVER MEUSE. QUICKLY, NOW ... SOMEONE MAY COME.



## The Invisible Enemy



INDEED, THE RECONNAISSANCE CORPS HUMBER OF SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS EVEN THEN RACING TOWARDS THAT ISOLATED SPOT.



HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING OF ONE OF YOUR TANK SQUADRONS ON THIS ROAD?

TANK SQUADRON?  
WE...

WAIT  
A MINUTE!  
SARGE...

## The Invisible Enemy

47

JOHNNY LOOKED ROUND IN SURPRISE AS BLANCO WHITE INTERRUPTED...



## The Invisible Enemy

THE GERMAN, MULLER, BEGAN TO SPUTTER AS BLANCO ADVANCED MENACINGLY ON HIM.



JOHNNY ROBERTS WAS ABOUT TO QUESTION BLANCO'S STRANGE BEHAVIOUR WHEN THERE CAME A HOARSE CRY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WOODS.



## The Invisible Enemy

49

MULLER TWISTED LIKE AN EEL... BUT  
BLANCO'S FIST SHOT OUT.



THE GERMAN FELL LIKE A POLE-AXED STEER...  
AND HANK RAISED A FEEBLE CHEER.

I ALWAYS SAID  
YOU HAD A DANDY  
LEFT-HOOK,  
LIMEY...UGH!

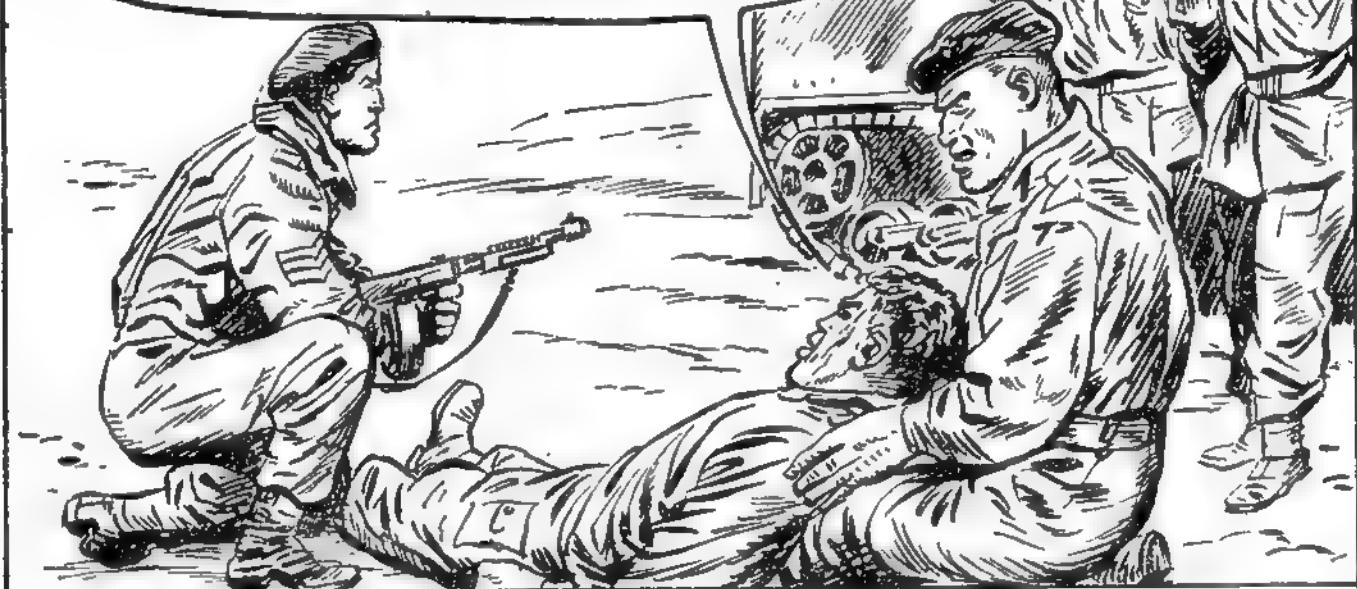
CATCH HIM, BLANCO...  
I'VE GOT THESE  
OTHERS COVERED!



## The Invisible Enemy

THE RECONNAISSANCE SERGEANT AND BLANCO WHITE STOOPED BESIDE THE AMERICAN, WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE HEAD BY MULLER'S PISTOL SHOT.

OUR SHERMANS ARE TRAPPED IN A VALLEY THREE MILES SOUTH. WE BROKE OUT IN BETSY THERE AND STOPPED BY THESE SLIMEY SNAKES. THEY'RE THE SAME GUYS WHO SENT THE SQUADRON INTO THAT VALLEY. THEY SHOT US UP WHEN WE COTTONED ON TO 'EM... MY-MY TWO BUDDIES ARE BACK THERE IN THE TREES... DEAD!



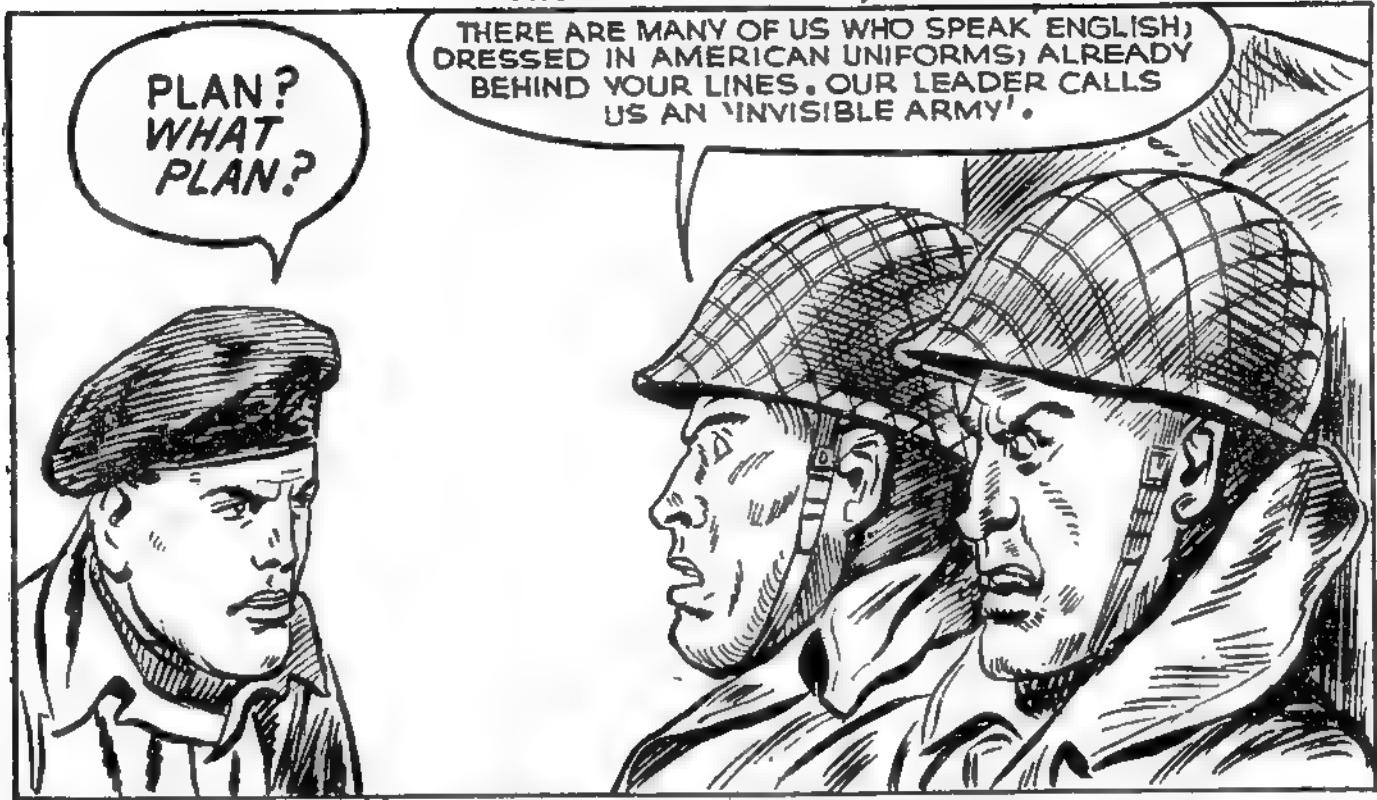
JOHNNY ROBERTS ROSE TO HIS FEET AND THE TWO GERMANS COWERED BEFORE HIS ICE-COLD STARE.

SO YOU'RE SPIES... AND MURDERERS! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LIKES OF YOU, THEY'RE SHOT!

IT WAS MULLER'S FAULT... HE ORDERED US TO DO IT!

HE SAID IF WE DID NOT DO IT, THE FUEHRER'S PLAN WOULD BE RUINED!





THE MENACE OF SUCH A DISGUISED FORCE WAS INSTANTLY RECOGNISED BY THE YOUNG BRITISH SERGEANT, BUT BLANCO WHITE WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN URGENT MISSION.



## The Invisible Enemy

THOROUGHLY TERRIFIED, THE TWO GERMANS BABBLED OUT MORE DETAILS OF COLONEL OTTO SKORZENY'S SPECIAL FORCE...DETAILS THAT FITTED PERFECTLY INTO JOHNNY'S SCHEME.



THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE. JOHNNY TOOK THE LEAD IN THE BRITISH ARMOURED CAR WITH ONE GERMAN STANDING IN THE TURRET AND THE FANATICAL NAZI MULLER, TRUSSLED INSIDE. BLANCO WAS AT THE WHEEL OF THE HALF TRACK WITH THE OTHER GERMAN, WHO WAS COVERED BY A PISTOL IN THE HAND OF HANK, HIDDEN BENEATH A TARPAUL.

## Chapter 5. **BREAK-OUT**

SOON, THE GERMANS ESTIMATED THAT THEY WERE NEARING THEIR OWN TROOPS AND HASTILY SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD LIGHT THEIR GREEN FLARES.

LIGHT THE FLARE.  
DON'T FORGET, ONE FALSE MOVE WHEN WE MEET YOUR TROOPS AND YOU'LL BE A DEAD MAN!

JA, JA!  
IT IS UNDERSTOOD!



THE SOUNDS OF THE BATTLE PUT UP BY THE BESIEGED AMERICAN TANKS REACHED THE MEN IN THE TWO ALLIED CARS AS THEY TRUNDLED BOLDLY TOWARDS THE UNITS OF THE ENEMY'S COUNTERSTROKE.

SHALL I GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE MEIN OBERLEUTNANT?

NEIN, NEIN!  
SEE, THEY CARRY THE IDENTIFY LIGHTS WE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT. THEY ARE TO BE LET PASS!



THE ALLIED ARMOURED VEHICLES DROVE BOLDLY PAST ENEMY SCOUT CARS AND INFANTRY... AND STILL THEY WERE NOT CHALLENGED.



THE ROAD AHEAD DIPPED INTO A VALLEY... AND FOR A FEW MOMENTS THE BATTLEGROUND WAS CLEARLY SPREAD BEFORE THEM. THEN A GERMAN OFFICER SIGNALLED THE HUMBER TO HALT...



THE ALLIED SOLDIERS HELD THEIR BREATHS...THEIR FINGERS ON THEIR TRIGGERS. WOULD THE DISGUISED GERMAN PLUCK UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO REVEAL THEIR PRESENCE?

WE ARE SOLDIERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCE OF COLONEL SKORZENY WITH TWO CAPTURED VEHICLES, HERR MAJOR.

YOU WILL BE DEAD SOLDIERS IF YOU CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD. YOU MUST TAKE THE TRACK TO THE RIGHT WHILE WE DESTROY THESE AMERICAN SCUM!

THE HUMBER AND THE AMERICAN HALF TRACK BUMPED OFF THE ROAD ON TO THE NARROW, RUTTED FOREST TRACK... AND JOHNNY BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF AND EXULTATION.

THEY'RE PLAYING INTO OUR HANDS... THIS TRACK LOOKS AS IF IT LEADS UP THE HILL CLOSE TO THEIR ANTI-TANK GUNS. KEEP GOING, DRIVER.

THEY PASSED LIMBERS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE GERMAN GUNS AND CURIOUS GLANCES WERE THROWN AT THE TWO ALLIED VEHICLES... BUT THEY WERE NOT STOPPED.

THIS IS IT! PULL UP WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, DRIVER... AND HELP ME LOAD THE GUN.



## The Invisible Enemy

THE BRITISH ARMOURED CAR BRAKED QUIETLY TO A HALT AND THE HALF TRACK DID THE SAME. THE GERMAN IN JOHNNY'S CAR GAVE A STRANGLED GROAN AND SUDDENLY SCRAMBLED DOWN FROM THE TURRET.



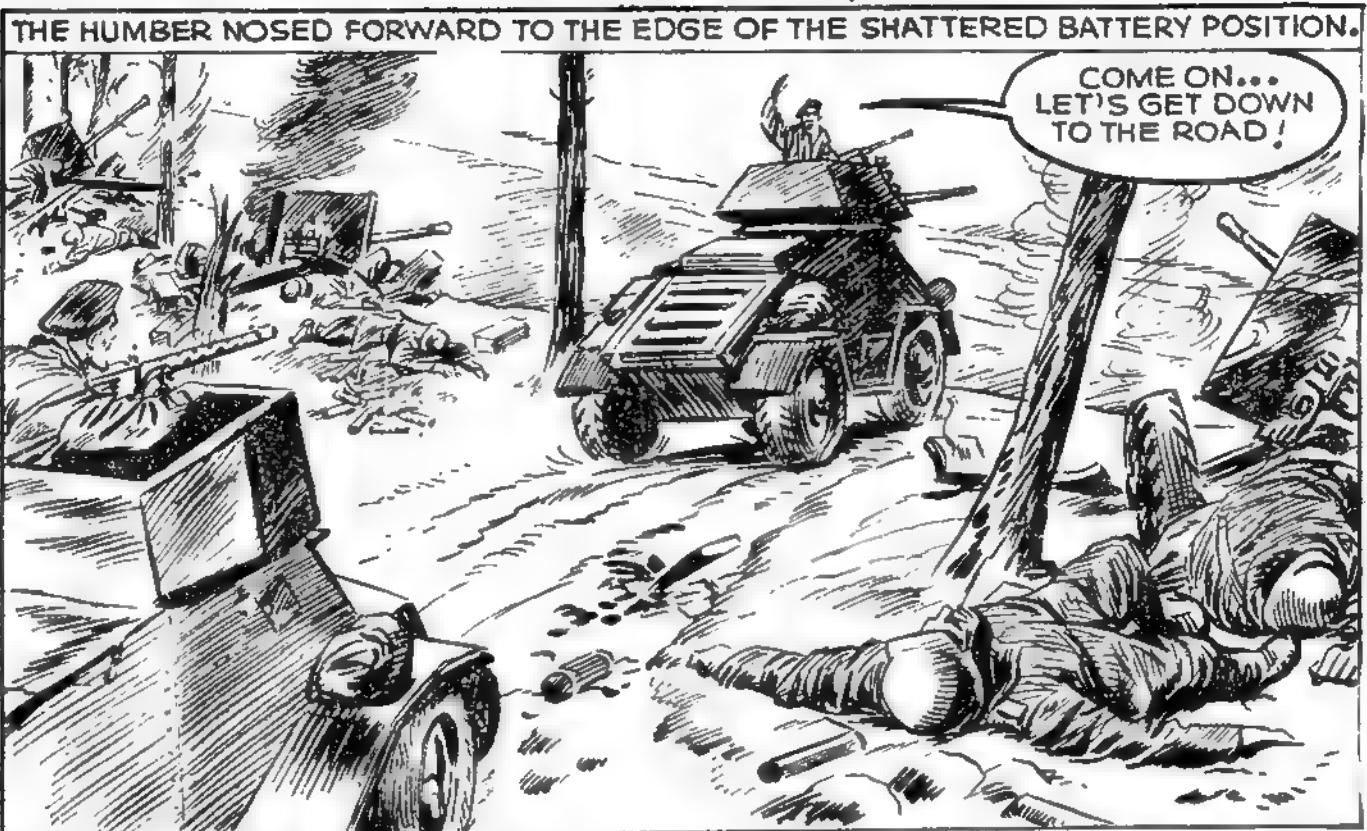
THE GERMAN GUNNERS REACTED TO THE WARNING SHOUT WITH A PANICKY BURST OF RIFLE FIRE WHICH CUT DOWN THEIR OWN MAN AS HE RAN TOWARDS THEM. THEN THE HUMBER'S GUN CRASHED INTO ACTION . . .



WITH CALM, DEADLY PRECISION THE BRITISH ARMOURED CAR WRECKED THE ANTI-TANK BATTERY... WHILE THE LIGHTER, QUICK-FIRING GUNS OF THE HALF TRACK HELD OFF THE BEWILDERED GERMANS.



## The Invisible Enemy



THE IMPLICATION OF WHAT HE SAW BEFORE HIM SUDDENLY HIT THE TANK OFFICER...

THOSE BOYS HAVE BUSTED UP THE JERRY GUNS! GET THE TRACKS A'TURNING... WE'RE MOVING OUT!



WITH HOPE RENEWED, THE SURVIVING SHERMANS PLUNGED DOWN THE SNOW COVERED SLOPE...AND ONLY INEFFECTUAL SHOTS FROM DISTANT ENEMY GUNS OPPOSED THEIR PASSING.

AFTER YOU, CHUM!

THANKS, FELLERS! TUCK IN BEHIND US AND WE'LL GET TO BLAZES OUTA HERE!



TERROR SEIZED THE ENEMY TROOPS ON THE ROAD OUT OF THE VALLEY... THEIR PREY HAD TURNED VENGEFULLY ON THEM.



## The Invisible Enemy

AS THE SHERMANS CLATTERED TOWARDS THE FATEFUL CROSSROADS WHERE THEY HAD BEEN MISDIRECTED, JOHNNY PULLED OUT BESIDE THE LEADING TANK.

TURN RIGHT AT THE CROSSROADS AHEAD, SIR... I'LL LEAD THE WAY TO OUR POSITION. LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!

AMEN TO THAT, SERGEANT! LEAD ON!



ONLY A FEW INFANTRY REINFORCEMENTS HAD REACHED THE HILLSIDE DEFENCE POSITIONS BEYOND THE VILLAGE OF VARDINAL... AND THE GERMAN ARMOUR WAS ATTACKING THEM FIERCELY.

HERE THEY COME! THIS IS IT!



LIKE MONSTROUS BLACK BEETLES, THE TIGER TANKS CRAWLED UP THE WHITE BLANKETED HILL . . .



IT SEEMED THAT NOTHING COULD STOP THOSE REMORSELESS PANZERS, BUT SERGEANT JOHNNY ROBERTS HAD LED THE AMERICAN SHERMANS ROUND TO THE ENEMY'S FLANK.



## The Invisible Enemy

THE SURPRISE WAS COMPLETE. THE ENEMY WERE BATTERED, DEMORALISED AND BEATEN.



AT LAST, A TERRIBLE SILENCE FELL OVER THE BATTLEFIELD. THE GERMAN SPEARHEAD HAD BEEN TURNED AND BLUNTED AS IT HAD ALL ALONG THE LINE OF ADOLF HITLER'S TREMENDOUS ARDENNES COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

WELL DONE,  
HANK... YOUR BOYS  
DID A GRAND  
JOB!

BUT FOR YOU BRITISHERS, WE'D HAVE  
BEEN SO MUCH SCRAP METAL. WE'LL  
NOT FORGET THAT! THANKS,  
SERGEANT!



BLANCO WHITE AND HIS AMERICAN COMRADE IN ARMS GRINNED AT EACH OTHER.

YOU'D BETTER GET YOURSELF  
FIT, HANK BOY... SO I CAN  
KNOCK THAT BLOCK OF  
YOURS OFF AGAIN.

DON'T KID YOURSELF, LIMEY... THAT  
LEFT HOOK'S NOT BAD BUT YOU'RE  
A SUCKER FOR A RIGHT CROSS!



## The Invisible Enemy

THE INVISIBLE ARMY OF OTTO SKORZENY HAD ALSO FAILED. THE GERMAN THRUST NEVER REACHED THE RIVER MEUSE... THE DISGUISED AGENTS BETRAYED THEMSELVES AND WERE ROUNDED UP. IT WAS ALMOST THE LAST OFFENSIVE OF THE MIGHTY GERMAN WAR MACHINE.



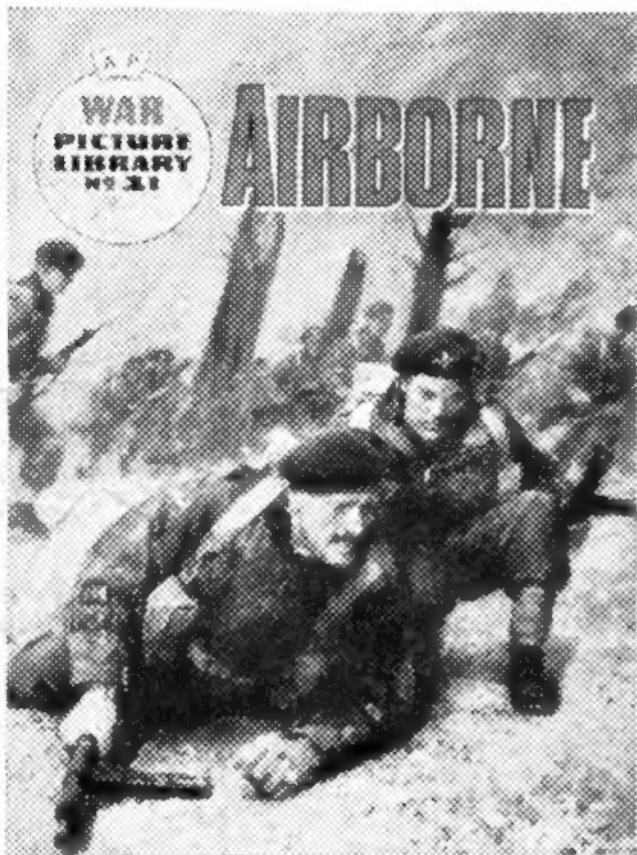
AND LEADING THE DRIVE INTO  
GERMANY ITSELF WAS THE  
RECONNAISSANCE CORPS, THE EYES  
AND THE EARS OF THE ARMY...

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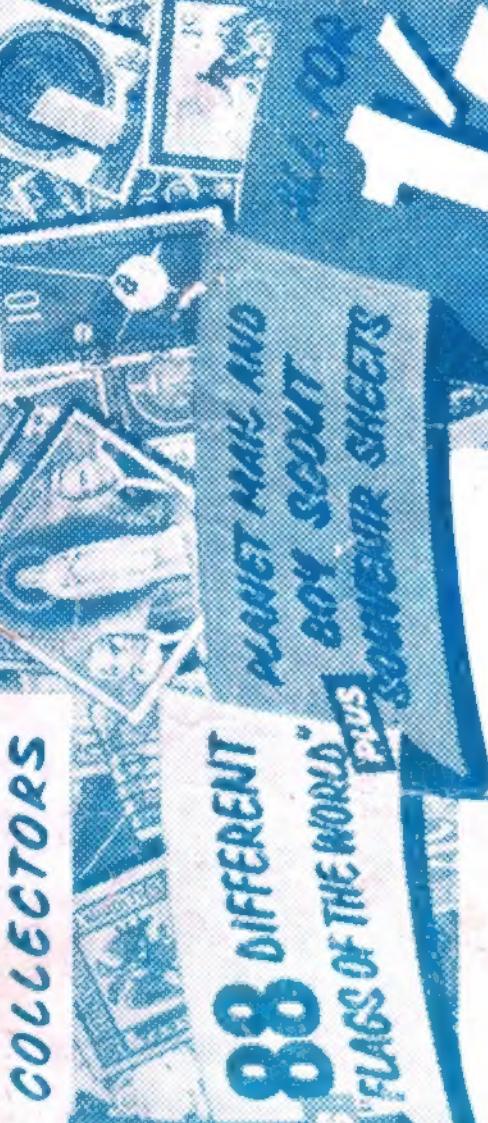
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